

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully submit that the final rejection is improper. In effect, it is submitted that the Examiner has issued a new grounds of rejection (the § 112 (second paragraph) rejection of claim 1) which was not necessitated by Applicants' amendments. More specifically, in the previous Office Action dated February 7, 2007, the Examiner objected to claims 1-11 under § 112 (second paragraph) but only identified a specific problem with respect to claim 10. As a result of this rejection, Applicants cancelled claim 10 in the response filed on May 7, 2007. However, since no specific problem was raised with respect to the remaining claims, Applicants were not in a position to overcome this rejection as the rejection was not clearly articulated. Now, in the final Office Action of July 24, 2007, and for the first time, the Examiner states that the problem with claim 1 is that the recitation of "a pulley adapted to apply torsion to a fiber does not provide structural limitations to the pulley." As such, it is submitted that this is actually a new rejection which was not previously raised and which was not necessitated by the last Amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of finality of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is noted that claim 1 has been amended to address the specific issue raised by the Examiner in the § 112 (second paragraph). Thus, entry of this Amendment and withdrawal of the § 112 rejection is requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1, 2, 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Roba, et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0020374). Further, claims 1 and 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Galy (U.S. Patent No. 6,629,735). Finally, claims 1 and 3 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Batelaan (U.S. Patent No. 5,678,903).

For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As an initial matter, claim 1 has been amended to positively recite the optical fiber as well as the pulley. Furthermore, claim 1 has been clarified to recite that the convex surface corresponds to the outermost peripheral external surface over which the optical fiber rolls during the drawing of the optical fiber. Further, according to claim 1, this surface of the pulley is in contact with the optical fiber during the process.

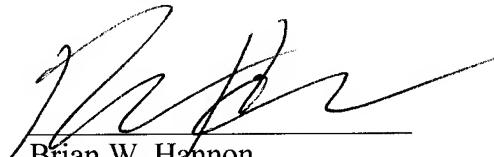
According to the Examiner, the peripheral external surface in Roba, et al. corresponds to the entire rim “from the perspective that makes up the circumference of a circle, not the V groove”. In view of the above amendment to claim 1, it is clear that this surface of Roba, et al. does not correspond to the “outermost peripheral external surface over which the optical fiber rolls during the drawing of the optical fiber,” as claim 1 requires. Further, this surface does not correspond to the surface which is contacted by the optical fiber. Instead, if at all, it is the V groove in Roba, et al. that corresponds to the claimed surface. This surface as previously argued is not convex toroidal, as claim 1 requires.

With respect to the remaining rejections, Applicants continue to submit that these references are not relevant for the reasons discussed in the last Response dated May 7, 2007, which is incorporated herein by way of reference. Applicants are mindful of the Examiner’s comments in paragraph 8 of the Office Action in which it is stated that “the prior art of Batelaan and Galy read on a pulley with a convex peripheral external surface that is capable of oscillating in clockwise and counterclockwise directions.” However, in view of the more complete claiming of the present invention, as including the claimed optical fiber, it is submitted that these references are now clearly not analogous to the present invention as claimed.

Applicants have attempted to amend the claims in order to clearly distinguish the claims over the prior art cited by the Examiner. It is believed that the claims, as amended, overcome the rejections. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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